

CLAIMS

1. A method for bandwidth management and sharing in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the method comprising:

reserving bandwidth for at least one of a first access device, a first access point and a first switch;

in response to a communication session associated with said at least one of a said first access device, said first access point and said first switch, allocating at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth for use by said at least one of said first access device, said first access point and said first switch; and

utilizing said at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth during said communication session.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising utilizing at least an unused remaining portion of said reserved bandwidth for use by at least one of a second access device, a second access point and a second switch.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising receiving a request for bandwidth by at least one of said first and second access points from at least one of said first and second access devices.

4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising receiving a request for bandwidth by at least one of said first and second switches from at least one of said first and second access points.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein said allocating further comprises allocating at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth and said at least an unused remaining portion of said reserved bandwidth upon at least one of an initiation of said communication session and during said communication session.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein said reserving further comprises reserving said bandwidth based on a device type of said first and second access devices.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said reserving further comprises the step of reserving said bandwidth based on a priority assigned to said device type of said first and second access devices.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising identifying said device type and said priority of said device type prior to said reservation of said bandwidth.

9. The method according to claim 2, further comprising receiving bandwidth information associated with said first and second access devices, said first and second access points and said first and second switches from at least one of a bandwidth management process, a quality of service management process, a load balancing management process, a session control process, and a network management process using at least one messaging protocol message, said received bandwidth information utilized for said allocating.

10. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program having at least one code section for bandwidth management and sharing in a hybrid

wired/wireless local area network, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps comprising:

reserving bandwidth for at least one of a first access device, a first access point and a first switch;

in response to a communication session associated with said at least one of a said first access device, said first access point and said first switch, allocating at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth for use by said at least one of said first access device, said first access point and said first switch; and

utilizing said at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth during said communication session.

11. The machine-readable storage according to claim 10, further comprising code for utilizing at least an unused remaining portion of said reserved bandwidth for use by at least one of a second access device, a second access point and a second switch.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for receiving a request for bandwidth by at least one of said first and second access points from at least one of said first and second access devices.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, further comprising code for receiving a request for bandwidth by at least one of said first and second switches from at least one of said first and second access points.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for allocating at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth and said at least an

unused remaining portion of said reserved bandwidth upon at least one of an initiation of said communication session and during said communication session.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for reserving said bandwidth based on a device type of said first and second access devices.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, further comprising code for reserving said bandwidth based on a priority assigned to said device type of said first and second access devices.

17. The machine-readable storage according to claim 16, further comprising code for identifying said device type and said priority of said device type prior to said reservation of said bandwidth.

18. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for receiving bandwidth information associated with said first and second access devices, said first and second access points and said first and second switches from at least one of a bandwidth management process, a quality of service management process, a load balancing management process, a session control process, and a network management process using at least one messaging protocol message, said received bandwidth information utilized for said allocating.

19. A system for managing bandwidth in a hybrid wired/wireless local area network, the system comprising:

at least one processor adapted to reserve bandwidth for at least one of a first access device, a first access point and a first switch;

 said at least one processor adapted to allocate at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth for use by said at least one of said first access device, said first access point and said first switch in response to a communication session associated with said at least one of a said first access device, said first access point and said first switch; and

 said at least one processor adapted to instruct said at least one of a said first access device, said first access point and said first switch to utilize said at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth during said communication session.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to instruct said at least one of a said first access device, said first access point and said first switch to utilize at least an unused remaining portion of said reserved bandwidth for use by at least one of a second access device, a second access point and a second switch.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to receive a request for bandwidth by at least one of said first and second access points from at least one of said first and second access devices.

22. The system according to claim 3, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to receive a request for bandwidth by at least one of said first and second switches from at least one of said first and second access points.

23. The system according to claim 20, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to allocate at least a portion of said reserved bandwidth and said at least an

unused remaining portion of said reserved bandwidth upon at least one of an initiation of said communication session and during said communication session.

24. The system according to claim 20, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to reserve said bandwidth based on a device type of said first and second access devices.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to reserve said bandwidth based on a priority assigned to said device type of said first and second access devices.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to identify said device type and said priority of said device type prior to said reservation of said bandwidth.

27. The system according to claim 20, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to receive bandwidth information associated with said first and second access devices, said first and second access points and said first and second switches from at least one of a bandwidth management process, a quality of service management process, a load balancing management process, a session control process, and a network management process using at least one messaging protocol message, said received bandwidth information utilized for said allocating.

28. The system according to claim 19, wherein said at least one processor is at least one of a control processor, a bandwidth management controller, a quality of service controller, a load balancing controller, a session controller and a network management controller.